

Information & Resources Concerning Sex Education Requirements of Section 170.015 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri

Does Section 170.015 require schools to teach “abstinence only” sex education?

No. The law says, “Any course materials and instruction relating to human sexuality and sexually transmitted diseases shall be medically and factually accurate and shall...present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice.”

Does Section 170.015 require schools to teach contraception?

Not by itself. Contraception is included in DESE’s *Curriculum Framework for Health and Physical Education*. Schools need to comply with Section 170.015’s more specific requirements that they “present students with the latest medically factual information regarding both the possible side effects and health benefits of all forms of contraception, including the success and failure rates for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.”

Does Section 170.015 conflict with MSIP requirements or DESE’s curriculum frameworks?

No.

At what grade levels must schools provide sex education?

Local school districts are to determine at what grades to provide instruction in human sexuality. It should be noted that the Missouri School Improvement Program requires developmentally appropriate HIV/AIDS prevention education at every grade level, including primary grades.

Where can schools obtain accurate information about...

effective HIV, STD, and pregnancy prevention curricula

Center on Adolescent Sexuality, Pregnancy and Parenting
307 Gentry Hall
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65211
telephone: 573-882-6687
internet: <http://outreach.missouri.edu/hdfs/caspp.htm>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Adolescent and School Health
4770 Buford Highway, NE (MS K-32)
Atlanta, GA 30341-3717
telephone: 770-488-3168; fax: 770-488-3110
internet: <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash>

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
HIV Prevention Education Program
205 Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 480
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480
telephone: 573-751-3805; fax: 573-751-9434
internet: <http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/curriculum/hiveducation/index.htm>

contraception

Journal of the American Medical Association, Contraception Information Center
515 N. State Street
Chicago, IL 60610
telephone: 312-464-2402; fax: 312-464-5824
internet: <http://www.ama-assn.org/special/contra/index.htm>

Where can schools obtain accurate information about...

HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Prevention Information Network

Publications Ordering Department

P.O. Box 6003

Rockville, MD 20849-6003

telephone: 800-458-5231 or 800-243-7012 TTY; fax: 888-282-7681

internet: <http://www.cdcnpin.org>

[NPIN provides published materials by mail on HIV/AIDS, STDs, and TB. These materials include fact sheets, guidelines, and reports. NPIN also offers brochures, posters, and videotapes that can be used for prevention education. Many materials are available in Spanish.]

also

internet: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pubs/faq/faq23.htm>

[A fact sheet on the efficacy of condoms in preventing HIV and other STDs]

Journal of the American Medical Association, HIV/AIDS Information Center

[See address under contraception above.]

internet: <http://www.ama-assn.org/special/hiv>

Missouri Department of Health, Section of STD/HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Services

930 Wildwood, P.O. Box 570

Jefferson City, MO 65109

telephone: 573-751-6439; fax: 573-751-6447

internet: <http://www.health.state.mo.us/sshapcs/SSHAPCS.html>

consequences of teen sexual activity and pregnancy

Advocates for Youth

1025 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 200

Washington, DC 20005

telephone: 202-347-5700; fax: 202-347-2263

internet: <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org>

The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20016-3007

telephone: 202-966-7300; fax: 202-966-2891

internet: <http://www.aacap.org/publications/pubcat/facts.htm>

Journal of Adolescent Health

Division of Adolescent Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine

750 Welch Road, Suite 325

Palo Alto, CA 94304

telephone: 650-725-8293

National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 200

Washington, DC 20036

telephone: 202-478-8500

internet: <http://www.teenpregnancy.org>

character education

CHARACTERplus™

8225 Florissant Road

St. Louis, MO 63121

telephone: 314-692-9723; fax 314-692-9700

internet: <http://info.csd.org/staffdev/chared/characterplus.html>